

Chapter 5: Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources

The Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources element is a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, and programs to guide the future protection and development of the natural lands and historical properties within Whitefish Bay. The element shall compare the local governmental unit's objectives, policies, goals and programs with local agricultural, natural, and cultural resources as required by Wisconsin Statute 66.1001.

5.1 Context

All communities derive benefits from green space, open space, and places of cultural and historical importance. These resources provide opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and increased public health. In the interests of preserving the benefits of these resources, the Village will list its existing agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.

5.2 Agricultural Resources Inventory

The Village of Whitefish Bay has no agricultural resources other than what individual residents are able to produce on their small urban lots.

5.3 Natural Resources Inventory

The purpose of this section is to identify natural resources within Whitefish Bay.

5.3.1 Landforms/Topography – The Village sits atop a bluff that overlooks the western shore of Lake Michigan, and is bounded by the Village of Shorewood, the City of Glendale, the Village of Fox Point, and the City of Milwaukee.

5.3.2 General Soils Information – Alfisols is the main soil prominent throughout Whitefish Bay and the Midwest (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service). This type of soil is typically good for agriculture and forestry as it is easy to keep fertile.

5.3.3 Drainage Basin – The Village drains into the Milwaukee River, which in turn flows into Lake Michigan. Some storm water drains directly into Lake Michigan.

5.3.4 Groundwater – The Village lies within the Devonian Dolomite Aquifer. The Village does not depend on groundwater for its municipal water supply, using Lake Michigan water instead.

5.3.5 Stream Corridors – The Milwaukee River runs from north to south just to the west of the Village.

5.3.6 Surface Water – Lake Michigan is the major surface water feature. As part of the North Shore Water Commission, the Village draws its drinking water from Lake Michigan. The Lake provides plentiful opportunities for recreation. As with all the Great

Lakes, Lake Michigan is the result of glacial melt at the end of the last Ice Age, and is therefore a non-renewable resource that must be protected. A Great Lakes Compact has been approved among the eight US states and two Canadian Provinces that drain into the Great Lakes. This Compact would limit the amount of Great Lakes water that could be diverted out of the Great Lakes Drainage Basin.

5.3.7 Floodplains – None of Whitefish Bay is within the flood plain as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

5.3.8 Wetlands – There are no significant wetlands.

5.3.9 Woodlands – There are no significant woodlands.

5.3.10 Steep Slopes, Hillside, and Bluffs – The western shore of Lake Michigan in Whitefish Bay features a bluff with steep slopes leading down to a sandy beach. This bluff provides a dramatic view of Lake Michigan, although much of it is private property.

5.3.11 Open Space/Environmental Corridors – The open spaces in the Village are limited to parks, undeveloped right of way, privately owned athletic fields, and privately owned areas along Lake Michigan. Environmental corridors – uninterrupted stretches of open space, wildlife habitat, and environmentally sensitive lands – are limited to the shoreline of Lake Michigan, which has both publicly and privately held land.

5.3.12 Nonmetallic Mineral Resources – The Village does not contain any areas used for extracting nonmetallic minerals.

5.3.13 Rare Species Occurrences/Wildlife Habitat – As established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Village is a habitat for the following rare species:

Group	Scientific Name	Common Name
butterfly	<i>Lycaena dione</i>	Gray Copper
community	<i>Floodplain forest</i>	Floodplain Forest
community	<i>Great lakes beach</i>	Great Lakes Beach
community	<i>Northern dry-mesic forest</i>	Northern Dry-mesic Forest
community	<i>Southern mesic forest</i>	Southern Mesic Forest
crustacean	<i>Procambarus gracilis</i>	Prairie Crayfish
dragonfly	<i>Chromagrion conditum</i>	Aurora Damselfly
fish	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	American Eel
fish	<i>Etheostoma microperca</i>	Least Darter
fish	<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>	Longear Sun fish
fish	<i>Luxilus chrysocephalus</i>	Striped Shiner
fish	<i>Lythrurus umbratilis</i>	Redfin Shiner
fish	<i>Moxostoma valenciennesi</i>	Greater Redhorse
plant	<i>Aster furcatus</i>	Forked Aster
plant	<i>Astragalus neglectus</i>	Cooper's Milkvetch
plant	<i>Cacalia suaveolens</i>	Sweet-scented Indian-plantain

plant	<i>Cakile edentula</i>	American Sea-rocket
plant	<i>Carex formosa</i>	Handsome Sedge
plant	<i>Carex gracilescens</i>	Slender Sedge
plant	<i>Conioselinum chinense</i>	Hemlock Parsley
plant	<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>	Showy Lady's-slipper
plant	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hairgrass
plant	<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	Variiegated Horsetail
plant	<i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>	Harbinger-of-spring
plant	<i>Euphorbia polygonifolia</i>	Seaside Spurge
plant	<i>Gentiana alba</i>	Yellow Gentian
plant	<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>	Wild Licorice
plant	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Marsh Blazing Star
plant	<i>Lithospermum latifolium</i>	American Gromwell
plant	<i>Orobanche uniflora</i>	One-flowered Broomrape
plant	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Hairy Beardtongue
plant	<i>Platanthera flava</i> var. <i>herbiola</i>	Pale Green Orchid
plant	<i>Platanthera hookeri</i>	Hooker Orchis
plant	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Wafer-ash
plant	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Bluestem Goldenrod
plant	<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>	Ohio Goldenrod
plant	<i>Thalictrum revolutum</i>	Waxleaf Meadowrue
plant	<i>Tofieldia glutinosa</i>	Sticky False-asphodel
plant	<i>Triglochin maritima</i>	Common Bog Arrow-grass
plant	<i>Trillium nivale</i>	Snow Trillium
plant	<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>	Reflexed Trillium
plant	<i>Verbena simplex</i>	Narrow-leaved Vervain
snake	<i>Thamnophis butleri</i>	Butler's Gartersnake
turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, "Element Occurrences – Sorted by Town Range: Milwaukee County"

5.3.14 Trees – The Village has a large inventory of trees scattered throughout the Village. This inventory is managed by the Village Forester on staff to maintain and care for the more than 9,000 trees that currently exist. The Village has been designated as a Tree City USA for 15 consecutive years. The Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters, provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of cities that more than 120 million Americans call home (Arbor Day Foundation).

5.3.15 Environmental Advisory Commission – On May 18, 2009, the Village Board adopted an ordinance establishing an Environmental Advisory Commission. Six residents and one trustee have been appointed to the commission to provide recommendations on specific energy and environmental practices to the Village

Manager and/or Village Board. Members for this commission were appointed on July 6, 2009 and began their work beginning in September.

5.4 Cultural Resources Inventory

The purpose of this section is to identify buildings, structures, institutions, or organizations that lend historic, cultural, or symbolic value to the Village of Whitefish Bay. There are many other faith based and other cultural resources that exist within the Village and region that are smaller in scope. The following is an inventory of the main cultural resources that exist within the Village:

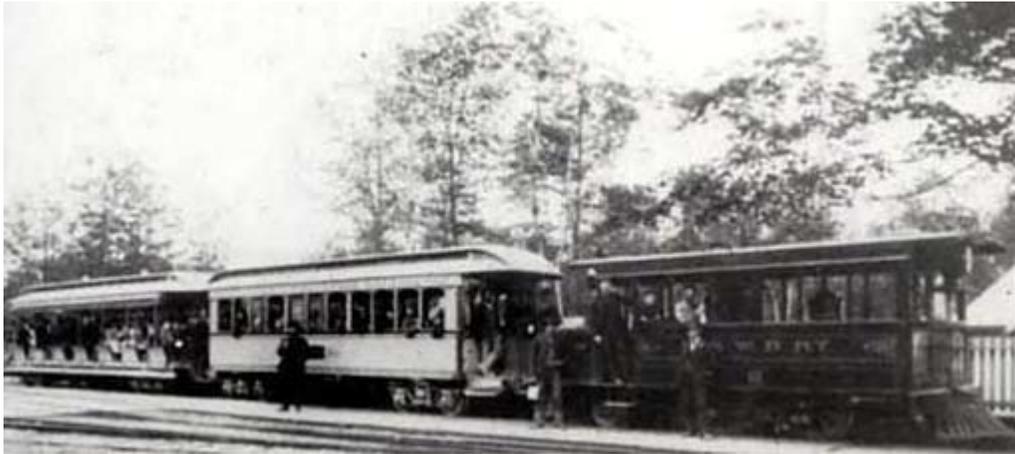
5.4.1 Historic Buildings and Structures – Section 1.4 summarizes the early history of Whitefish Bay. The history is reflected in structures still located throughout the community, including many farmhouses of early settlers of the Village. Two notable examples include William H. and Ruth Consaul's Home, located at 716 E. Silver Spring Drive and believed to have been built in the 1856, and Johann Bauch's Farmhouse, which is presently located at 5007 N. Idlewild Ave. The Bauch residence was constructed between 1863 and 1865 and is faced with Cream City brick.

Many other early Village farmhouses have been documented, including the following:

William H. and Ruth Consaul's Home	5654 N. Santa Monica Blvd.
William T. Consaul Home	5682 N. Santa Monica Blvd.
Frank Consaul Home	5700 N. Santa Monica Blvd.
Gordon and Ruth Nelson Home	5685 N. Consaul Pl.
Gallus Isenring	808 E. Lake View Ave.

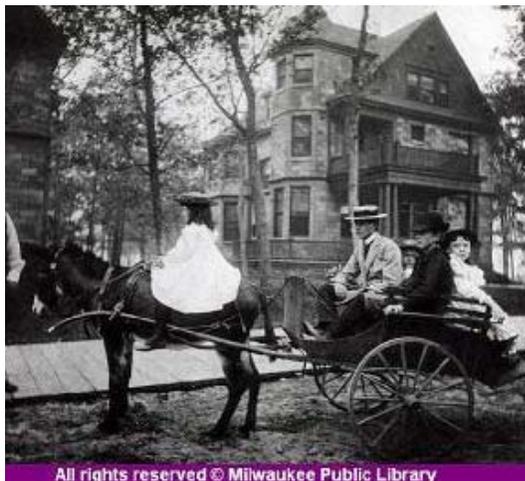
Others farmhouses are being identified and documented and will be added to the Village's Architecture and History Inventory (WFB AHI) as time permits as noted under Section 5.4.3 below.

In addition to early farmhouses, a number of other historic structures have survived. The home of the second Village President, Dr. Thaddeus Williams, is located at 942-944 E. Sylvan Ave. The structure used as the first Village Hall was relocated to 314 E. Beaumont Avenue where it was remodeled and stands today as an attractive single-family residence. The earliest schoolhouse no longer remains. However, a park has been named in its honor (Schoolhouse Park), located across the street from the current Village library. A significant number of houses were constructed in the Village in the late 1890s at the northern terminus of the 'Dummy Line' (Figure 5.4.1). East Day Avenue was designed as a Historic District by Milwaukee County in 1986 and several of its individual homes have been added to the WFB AHI. Similarly several homes on E. Glen Avenue are being identified and documented for inclusion on the inventory.

Figure 5.4.1 – Dummy Line Train through Whitefish Bay

Two interesting homes in this latter category are known as the ‘Twin Sisters’ of Lake Drive (Figure 5.4.2). These homes are more formerly known as the Henry R. and Marian King Home at 5559 N. Lake Drive and the James and Anna McGee Home at 5569 N. Lake Drive. Marian King and Anna McGee were the daughters of Paul Juneau and granddaughter of Laurent Solomon Juneau. Solomon Juneau was one of Milwaukee's founding fathers and its first mayor. They were also great-granddaughters of Jacques Vieau (or Vieaux), a French Canadian and voyageur who eventually settled in Green Bay. These almost identical houses were built in 1893.

Figure 5.4.2 – Twin Sisters of Lake Drive. The picture taken on the left is from 1894 and the picture on the right is from present day.



* Source: Milwaukee Public Library photo (left)

While most of the resorts were eventually raised, with their properties subdivided for residential housing, the one notable exception is Jack Pandl's Whitefish Bay Inn. The structure was built in about 1900 by George Bently and was originally called “Bently's

Whitefish Bay Inn” – a combination tavern-grocery store that served patrons to the Pabst resort and later troops from the National Guard Armory, which was located immediately west of the Inn.

Few remnants of the early transportation infrastructure remain. Reportedly some of the piers of the Pabst Whitefish Bay Resort remain, but are largely submerged. Occasionally tracks of the early railways are uncovered during street work; however, most are believed to have been removed. A soda works factory, located close to 5600 Lydell Avenues in the late 1890s, provided soft drinks to the Whitefish Bay Resort and presumably other resorts in the area. While it was razed by 1916, the home of original owner, Richard Seifert, currently serves as an office building at 130-134 West Silver Spring Drive.

Numerous homes are being reviewed for the more-recent historical significance of their previous owners/occupants. These include, for example, the home Tom Miller, one of the producers of the Happy Days television sitcom at 6017 N. Bay Ridge Ave., and the home of 1940s actress Jane Archer at 5251 N. Idlewild Ave.

5.4.2 Historic Preservation Commission – On October 24, 2005, the Whitefish Bay Village Board approved a historic preservation ordinance, establishing the Historic Preservation Commission. The Historic Preservation Commission consists of seven unpaid volunteers. It is charged with the responsibility of assisting in the preservation of the Village’s historic and cultural heritage by identifying buildings, sites, and objects, that reflect elements of Whitefish Bay’s cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history. The Commission aids in safeguarding this historic legacy by recommending that eligible properties be designated as local historic structures or sites.

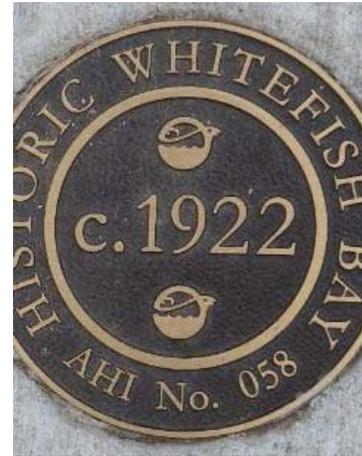
5.4.3 Whitefish Bay Architecture and History Inventory (WFB AHI) – The Historic Preservation Commission maintains an inventory of architecturally significant and historic homes and other sites within the Village. Sites listed on the AHI may also qualify for designation as Whitefish Bay Landmarks (Figure 5.4.3). The current inventory contains over 110 properties and is available for review at the Whitefish Bay Library.

5.4.4 Whitefish Bay Historical Walking Tour – Using the WFB AHI, the Historic Preservation Commission began marking sidewalks with medallions (Figure 5.4.4) of homes list in the inventory. This self guided walking tour features sites within the Wilshire, Cumberland Forest, and Lake Drive Neighborhoods in southeastern section of Whitefish Bay. This tour is designed to be traversed in about an hour. It covers approximately 2.85 miles and loops back, such that the tour ends near its start. A brochure is available at the Village Hall, Library, and website to help aid participants in the walk.

Figure 5.4.3 – Whitefish Bay Historic Landmark Bronze Plaque



Figure 5.4.4 – Whitefish Bay Historic Walking Tour Medallion



5.4.4 Cultural Amenities – The Village of Whitefish Bay features various organizations, institutions, and public spaces for the entertainment, edification, and enjoyment of the general public.

- *Lake Michigan* – Although identified as a natural resource, Lake Michigan can also be considered a cultural resource in Whitefish Bay due to its current recreational uses and its historic role as the central attraction of the 19th-century resort in the Village.

Figure 5.4.5: Lake Michigan at Klode Park



- *Parks* – Milwaukee County owns and maintains a large system of parks. The Milwaukee County Parks that lie within Whitefish Bay are Big Bay County Park along Lake Michigan, and part of Estabrook Park, which is on a section

of the Milwaukee River. The Village also owns and maintains parks. Klode Park, Silver Spring Park, and Buckley Park are on the lakefront and provide public access to Lake Michigan. Cahill Square, Schoolhouse Park, and Water Tower Park are inland and include various amenities. These parks serve as venues for community festivals, concerts, ice-skating, sporting events, and playgrounds (See Utilities and Community Facilities, Chapter 4).

Figure 5.4.6: Cahill Park with playground and tennis courts in the background, and Water Tower Park with soccer and baseball fields.



- *Whitefish Bay Public Library* – The library was established in 1955 and the current building was remodeled and expanded in 2002. The library provides access to quality information, encourages lifelong learning, and supports various civic and cultural activities. The Friends of Whitefish Bay Library was also created to help support the collection and provide for programs for patrons to use. The Friends group is privately funded and separate from the Village, but the additional amenities it provides directly benefit all patrons of the library.

Figure 5.4.7: Whitefish Bay Public Library



- *Karl Jewish Community Center (JCC)* – The JCC began in Milwaukee in the 1890s as a settlement house aiding immigrants in establishing a new life in the United States. As the Jewish population of the Milwaukee area shifted over the subsequent decades, the organization relocated several times in order to better serve its community. In 1987, the JCC moved to its current 28-acre campus in Whitefish Bay. Today, the JCC is a membership organization that offers fitness programs, recreation opportunities, and classes for children and adults.

Figure 5.4.8: Karl Jewish Community Center



- *The Bay Players* – The Bay Players began as a community theater troupe in 1951, and have been a cornerstone of the community's arts and entertainment ever since. The Bay Players are a membership organization that gives Milwaukee-area residents the opportunity to participate in all aspects of a theater production, both on- and off-stage. The troupe typically performs three plays each season, and stages them in the Whitefish Bay High School Auditorium.

Figure 5.4.9: A recent Bay Players performance.



- *Civic Foundation* – The Whitefish Bay Civic Foundation is organized and operates for the benefit of charitable, scientific, civic improvement, literary, and/or educational purposes. They are involved in the donation of funds to help improve the public welfare, improve the appearance of the Village, lessen the burden on the local government, promote the advancement of education, and a number of other activities designed for the betterment of the community. The Civic Foundation provides for the Green Day in the Bay, July 4th Parade and Community Festival, Sounds of Summer, and the Great Pumpkin Festival.

Figure 5.4.10: Provided Funds to Fix Village Owned Clock in Business District



Figure 5.4.11: Organize Annual Events – July 4 Parade, Sounds of Summer Concert, Pumpkin Festival



- *Recreation and Community Education Department* – The Recreation Department operates within the Whitefish Bay School District offering a wide variety of quality recreational, educational, cultural, and social programs and services for all residents and students of Whitefish Bay. They offer preschool, youth enrichment programs, youth sports, gymnastics, youth aquatics, adult aquatics/fitness, adult sports, senior programming, and a number of other services within the community. The Recreation Department also has specific senior programming put together by their Senior Coordinator. This includes different lunches, events, traveling, and other programs designed specifically for seniors.

Figure 5.4.12: Cover for Recreation Department Summer 2009 Programs



- *Whitefish Bay Women's Club* – The Whitefish Bay Women's Club is a local group of women within the Village who gather at their own facilities, known as the "clubhouse". This group provides for local lunches and events for members, and performs other civic functions such as producing scholarships to give back to the community.
- *Northshore Junior Women's Club* – The Northshore Junior Women's Club is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization for women 21 years and older with membership from the region rather than solely the Village. The organization holds monthly meetings to plan different fundraisers and volunteer opportunities in the community.
- *Northshore Newcomers* – The Northshore Newcomers is a social group of more than 100 local young families. The goal is to make friends, have fun, and support its members and the community. The group organizes a variety of activities for new Northshore residents with and without children.
- *Whitefish Bay Garden Club* – The Whitefish Bay Garden club meets on a monthly basis to discuss timely topics in gardening and tours local gardens.
- *Whitefish Bay Community Band* – The community band is a collection of residents from the community who rehearse and perform five different concerts during the summer. The Village provides tents and other seating, while the Civic Foundation hosts an ice cream social during the first and last performance. These concerts have become very popular among residents as hundreds show up for each performance.

5.5 Agriculture, Natural, and Cultural Resources Goals

5.5.1 Water – Surface water in Whitefish Bay is a valuable resource, and it must be protected. Storm water run-off is a major source of pollution in the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan. The Village can help prevent harmful run-off from collecting in these waterways by encouraging the installation and use of swales, green spaces, rain gardens, rain barrels and other landscaping features that help absorb storm water before it drains into waterways. These efforts will also help prevent erosion, which could be particularly threatening to the bluffs along the lakefront. The Village can also discourage the use of – or encourage reduced use of – substances that are most harmful, such as herbicides, chemical lawn fertilizers, and road salt. Even though Whitefish Bay does not have a history of heavy industry, the neighboring communities of Glendale and Milwaukee do, and such an industrial heritage brings with it the risk of contamination of the subsurface water. Subsurface water flows into the Milwaukee River, Lake Michigan, and other local waterways, and indirectly affects the Village's water supply, and the North Shore Water Commission should continue its extensive water-testing program to prevent any contamination.

5.5.2 Air and Noise – Without a significant industrial presence in or near the Village, Whitefish Bay’s major potential for air and noise pollution comes from automobile traffic. The Village should encourage containment of heavy vehicle traffic on the major arterial streets, encourage mixed-use developments, and promote walking and bicycling as viable transportation options within the Village (see Land Use, Chapter 8).

5.5.3 Environmental Corridors and Wildlife Habitat – The major environmental corridor and wildlife habitat in Whitefish Bay is the lakefront and its bluffs. Much of this area is private property, so the Village should work closely with property owners to preserve as much of the area’s natural beauty as possible. Property owners will likely be amenable to such efforts, since the natural beauty of the lakefront is what makes their properties attractive and valuable.

5.5.4 Open Lands – The open land in Whitefish Bay consists mostly of Village and County Parks. The Village should continue its efforts to maintain its parks, since they are vital recreation resources for Village residents.

5.5.5 Cultural Amenities – The cultural amenities inventoried in 5.4.2 should be maintained and enhanced with respect towards the other natural resources identified in this element, as they help define the Village’s distinctive character.

5.6 Agriculture, Natural, and Cultural Resources Implementation Strategies

The following strategies provide the Village with the means to achieve the goals enumerated in Section 5.5.

5.6.1 Natural Resources

- Require that new developments include erosion controls during construction.
- Work with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District to encourage the use of rain barrels and rain gardens to reduce the harmful effects of storm-water run-off.
- Consider the potential for air and noise pollution with any new commercial development.
- Continue to monitor and maintain the tree inventory to protect against invasive species and diseases including emerald ash borer, Dutch elm disease, and other threats towards the health of the trees.
- Encourage the installation and use of landscaping elements such as swales, buffers, rain barrels, and rain gardens to reduce the harmful effects of storm-water run-off. Including the use of porous surfaces on sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and patios to enhance infiltration.

- Work with the Milwaukee County Parks Department to ensure proper maintenance and upkeep of County Parks within the Village, while also maintaining high standards for Village Parks.
- Work with the Milwaukee County Parks Department, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to determine the present and future health of the bluffs along the lakefront.
- Work with private-property owners along the lakefront on the preservation of the bluff to keep the area's natural beauty and wildlife habitats intact.

5.6.2 Cultural Resources

- Continue the work of the Historic Preservation Commission in their work with historic properties and archiving those that are historically significant.
- Encourage future developments to preserve and protect those cultural amenities, identified in this plan or subsequently by the Village, that lend distinctive character to Whitefish Bay.

